

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

/077 W

-----087562 071516Z /40

O R 071350Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6045

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1918

PRETORIA FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV RH US UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING WITH ZAMBIAN FONMIN
MWALE

1. PRESIDENT KAUNDA, JOSHUA NKOMO AND FONMIN MWALE RETURNED
TO LUSAKA FROM LIBREVILLE OAU CONFERENCE JULY 6 AT NOON IN
ATMOSPHERE OF EXHULTATION OVER ZAMBIAN, FRONTLINE AND PATRIOTIC
FRONT VICTORY IN ACHIEVING RECOGNITION BY OAU AT LIBREVILLE.
MWALE AGREED TO MEET THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP IN THE LATE AFTERNOON.

2. MWALE COULD HARDLY CONTAIN HIMSELF THROUGH GRAHAM'S INITIAL
PRESENTATION OF CG'S INTENTIONS AND PROGRESS TO DATE BEFORE
EXPRESSING HIS STRONG SKEPTICISM THAT ANYTHING COULD BE
ACCOMPLISHED BY NEGOTIATION AND HIS BITTERNESS OVER THE SACRIFICES
WHICH ZAMBIA HAD BEEN FORCED TO ACCEPT DURING THE LAST 12 YEARS
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SINCE UDI. HE INDICATED THAT HE INTERPRETED THE LIBREVILLE
RESOLUTION AS FULL OAU BACKING FOR EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION OF THE
PF, AND ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS HE ADVISED US STRONGLY TO DEAL
ONLY WITH THE PF IN THE FUTURE. HE SAID HE ACCEPTED OUR SINCERITY
BUT SAW LITTLE PROSPECT THAT OUR EFFORTS WOULD BE ANY MORE
SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING AT THE ROOT OF THE MATTER, WHICH IS TO
BRING DOWN SMITH, THAN THOSE MADE BY OTHERS BEFORE UC. HE

ENCOURAGED

US TO PROCEED BUT NOT INVOLVE ZAMBIA IN OUR EFFORTS.
ZAMBIA COULD NOT HELP BUT PLAY A CERTAIN ROLE BECAUSE OF ITS
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, BUT IT DID NOT INTEND TO TAKE AN ACTIVE
PART IN HELPING TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

3. WE EMPHASIZED THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CARRIED ON WITH THE
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE AND THAT OUR INTEREST
WAS SIMPLY IN INFORMING THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA OF OUR PLANS
AND PROGRESS TO DATE AND THAT WE WERE ASKING NOTHING FURTHER OF
IT. GRAHAM NOTED THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD URGED FONG SECY OWEN
TO CONSULT WITH ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE, IN
TRYING TO REACH A SETTLEMENT. MWALE REPLIED THAT THAT WAS BEFORE
THE OAU RESOLUTION OF THIS WEEK. GRAHAM POINTED OUT THAT THE OAU
RESOLUTION PROVIDED BACKING FOR THE PF AS THE EXCLUSIVE
LIBERATION MOVEMENT BUT LEFT ROOM FOR OTHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN
A FREE ELECTION PROCESS. THEREFORE, WE FELT THE NEED TO CONSULT
THOSE WHO WERE LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED IN SUCH AN ELECTION. MWALE
DISMISSED THIS IDEA SAYING THAT MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE WERE
WELCOME TO JOIN THE PF WHICH WAS NOT A POLITICAL PARTY BUT A
"FRONT" FORMED TO CONDUCT THE WAR. AFTER THE WAR, NO ONE EXPECTED
THAT THE FRONT WOULD NECESSARILY BECOME A PARTY, BUT MIGHT VERY
WELL BREAK INTO SEVERAL PARTIES THAT WOULD PARTICIPATE IN AN
ELECTION.

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COMMENT: THE TONE OF THE MEETING WAS NOT GOOD. MWALE MADE IT
RATHER CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT TAKE OUR EFFORT SERIOUSLY. WHEN
THE NEWLY APPOINTED FOREIGN OFFICE PERMANENT SECY AMB ZAMBIA TRIED TO
CLARIFY ONE OR TWO POINTS, MWALE INSISTED ON ANSWERING FOR
GRAHAM, EXPLAINING OUR METHODS IN SOMEWHAT SARCASTIC TONES. WE
HAVE RUN INTO MWALE'S EMOTIONAL OUTBURSTS IN DEALING WITH THE
RHODESIAN PROBLEM ON OTHER OCCASIONS, BUT THIS TIME AROUND HE
WAS MORE DIFFICULT THAN IN THE PAST. SOME OF HIS EMOTIONALISM
CAN BE ASCRIBED TO HIS ANTI-BRITISH BIAS, WHICH WE HAVE SEEN AT
WORK BEFORE, AND GRAHAM, INADVERTENTLY, APPEARED TO STIMULATE
THIS STREAK IN MWALE'S NATURE. WE BELIEVE HIS NEGATIVISM RE A
NEGOTIATED SOLUTION IS AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF ONE SIDE OF
KAUNDA'S APPROACH TO RHODESIA--AN APPROACH BASED ON PAST
DECEPTIONS THAT STRETCH BACK OVER THE YEARS. HOWEVER, WE
BELIEVE THAT KAUNDA, DESPITE HIS VOCIFEROUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS
IN FAVOR OF THE ARMED CONFLICT CONTINUES TO HAVE AN INTEREST
IN A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD MINIMIZE BLOODSHED AND LIMIT THE
DESTRUCTION IN ZIMBABWE. THIS SIDE OF KAUNDA'S APPROACH
TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM, WE HAVE FOUND, IS SELDOM REFLECTED
BY MWALE.
CLINGERMAN

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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